

# FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

Published monthly September through June for members of Foggy Bottom Restoration Association  
Volume 2 October 1958 Number 2

## SMALL INTOWN CITY

A short syndicated article by Bab Lincoln, a Washington writer, describes our neighborhood as a "charming collection of restored early American homes in the quaint 'downtown' village of Foggy Bottom." It is illustrated with a photograph of three houses--806, 808, and 810 New Hampshire, the homes of Elinor Glenn, Etta Mai Russell and Marguerite Griffin, and Madeline McCandless. The article was syndicated nationally in a special feature service of the National Paint, Varnish, and Lacquer Association, which has its headquarters in Washington. We reprint the article in full as it appeared in Hearth--The Magazine of Gracious Living.

### FOGGY BOTTOM Charming old German town lives again in Washington, D. C.

When it comes to fine residential areas, perhaps no city offers statelier, more luxurious dwelling places than the Nation's Capital. But startling enough, the latest scene-stealers in smart Washington homes are not the big, expensive apartment structures now rising along the Potomac, but a charming collection of restored early American homes in the quaint "downtown" village of Foggy Bottom.

Like the butterfly out of the cocoon, Foggy Bottom has emerged as a combination of actual restorations and authentic reproductions. The net result is a delightful patchwork of streets bright with many colors in painted shutters and doorways.

Pioneer in the rehabilitation of the Village is Dr. Eleanor Lansing Dulles, a State Department official for the past 15 years. As special assistant to the office in charge of German Economic Affairs, her daily trek to the new State Department building brought

the potentialities of the vicinity to her attention.

"When I first investigated the rehabilitation possibilities of Foggy Bottom," she said, "we found that many of the homes would have to be condemned. Long years of no painted protection had reduced even the wood framework of many of the fine old brick structures to crumbling decay."

Luckily the houses chosen for restoration had been lived in from time to time, and so had enjoyed the advantage of periodic painting. But in others, the natural moisture from the Potomac River, which makes such a fine scenic background for the neighborhood, had really taken its toll.

Often spoken of as another Georgetown, the small intown city which was a thriving port before the capital had been dreamed of, Foggy Bottom actually has a character quite definitely its own.

The houses are not spacious mansions as so many are in Georgetown, but are modest houses in varying types of architecture. Two or three stories high, with peaked dormer windows, small garden plots in front, neat midget hedges and





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blooming flowers, they are more apt to suggest the ancient houses of Hamburg and Heidelberg, and may well reflect the influence of the originator of the development, Jacob Funk, a German immigrant who first purchased the land in 1768.

An agreeable uniformity has been carried out everywhere under the watchful eyes of the Foggy Bottom Restoration Association. A leisurely jaunt around the village reveals not one clash of color in the myriad combinations chosen by the individual homeowners. A wedgewood blue house, with white iron balcony over the gleaming white door, is in harmony next to a yellow facade with black trimmings on the left, and on the right a white house with scarlet door and shutters, with a weeping willow over its brick wall.

Such charming effects are repeated all over Foggy Bottom, a fine commentary on this generation's ability to escape at least a little from the environments of the jet age.

\* \* \* \* \*

## LETTER FROM HELEN McGRATH

Dear Foggy Bottom News:

Colonel McGrath is well and home again.

I didn't know about Mac taking over as Block Reporter on I-Street 26 hundred--I think it's fine, however, and here are a few items I picked up here and there.

On Saturday September 20th Ed and Betsy Barlow had a darling little girl. Congratulations from Eye Street to all three.

Our prominent architect Harold Boutin, and Ed Blumquist, our world travelers, have added a most attractive fishtank in their lower study--Harold doing the labor--and now he longs to develop orchids. Knowing Harold, I know he will. Notice to "gals" in Foggy Bottom: "Be nice to Harold" and wear orchids!

The McGraths had a visit from their son and daughter. Dotty McGrath is so enamoured of Foggy Bottom she would almost put the three babies on the market so they could live in the Bottom.

Kate Stevens, Foggy Bottom's glamour girl, will visit with Ross and Mac, her maternal grandparents in San Francisco in October. She's known as "Flying Kate" now, this being her second cross-country flight and she isn't a year old.

No one is happier than the Gundersons, McGraths, and Hichborns with their new parking--the neighborhood dogs miss the old, though.

Willie and Art Gunderson have the most intriguing fountain in their garden--can see same from Helen McGrath's upstairs, and so many people are eager to see it Helen is thinking of selling tickets!

Rufus Lisle is Mexico-bound. All of Vanne-man's female guests this past month exhausted him. Bull fights are more restful, I'll wager. Both Rufus and Van are such delightful hosts their home will soon be known as "Ruf and Van's Heated Cabins!"

Life has changed for Harriet Gruger since her charming niece Anne has arrived to spend the winter. The other day one of Anne's beaux was cleaning windows, another putting up the storm door, everyone having a happy time. Solitude is gone, Harriet.

--Sincerely, Helen McGrath

## SNOW'S COURT

By Mary N. Moynihan

Although houses in Snow's Court apparently are never sold, we do have some turnover, and will try to keep you up to date on the newcomers.

The Reverend and Mrs. Henry Minich of St. Paul's Episcopal Church are now living in the house formerly occupied by Mrs. Elizabeth Pritchard, who has deserted in favor of 25th Street. The Minich's have a son, Stephen, who celebrated his first birthday on September 2, and who is enjoying that great experience of learning to walk and of experimenting with things formerly out of his play-pen reach. Cissi comes from Westchester, Pa., and Father Minich from Charlottesville, Virginia.

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Mr. and Mrs. William Beltz are living in John (former president of the Foggy Bottom Restoration Association) and Vi Gunther's house. Bill, assistant managing editor with a private publishing firm, Bureau of National Affairs, Inc., and Beverly, an ex-stewardess with United Air Lines, were married May 31, and before settling in Snow's Court took a three-week trip to Paris, St. Wolfgang (Austria), Venice, Florence, and Rome. While they were on their honeymoon many of their wedding gifts were lost in a double robbery of their home. \*

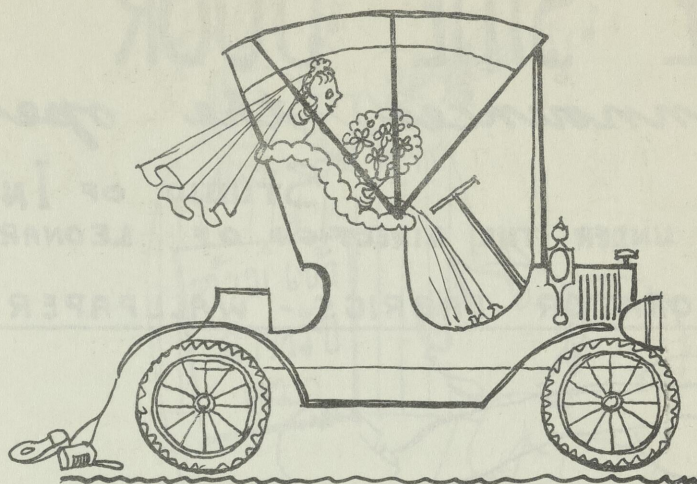
Another Snow's Courter had a European vacation last summer. Betty May, who is renting Margaret Franzon's house while Margaret is serving a tour with USIA in Yugoslavia, spent a month seeing Trans-Atlantic sights. For part of her trip she joined forces with Margaret who was one of the original officers of our Association.

Ida Denman's flowers, planted in rock and brick crevices on the south side of her house, are once again one of the fall glories of the Court. Incidentally, doesn't the original row look gay with its new paint and fences?

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Kohr have been entertaining Mildred's mother, Mrs. Beglen, who lives outside Coral Gables, Florida. Mildred and Dan like square dancing and Dan listens to his hi-fi when Mildred has friends in for bridge. Mildred hooks rugs so skillfully that she is called on to teach in summer craft courses as far away as Rhode Island, although she herself was born and brought up in the South.

Among others in the court who have entertained during the summer are Carolyn Casper, who entertained her sister and brother-in-law from Allentown, Pa., and Mrs. John Moynihan, who had her daughter, son-in-law, and three grandchildren for a three-day stay. Needless to say, Snow's Court houses being what they are, in the latter case it was necessary to park part of the family at the Shoreham.

\* Editor's Note: Most house robberies could be prevented if people would notify Precinct 3, District Police, NA 8-4000, before vacating their premises for periods of time greater than a day or two.



#### HONEYMOON T

Newest Foggy Bottom automobile is also the oldest. It's a spick-and-span shiny black 1921 Model T Ford touring car. On display in the carpark next to the new Town House apartments at the corner of 25th and I, the machine belongs to a friend of Don Griffin. Don and Robie Griffin live in the apartment on the second floor.

Don takes care of the T when it gets cantankerous and needs fixing. A car mechanic by avocation, Don is a patent attorney by profession. He and his friend, the owner of the T, drove it down to Washington from Massachusetts recently, covering the 375 miles in 18 driving hours for an average speed of 20.7 mph. The 4-cylinder job makes 25 to 30 miles on a gallon of gas, is capable of 45 mph on a slight downgrade, cruises comfortably at 25 to 30 mph on level pavement.

Don and Robie Griffin are newcomers in Foggy Bottom, and newlyweds. Married August 9, they rode in the T from the wedding reception in Chevy Chase to their honeymoon apartment in Foggy Bottom. Owner of the T, Jerry Shortell, acted as their chauffeur. Jerry is an attorney in the Justice Department--Joseph H. Shortell--and they call him Jerry because he has a twin brother named Tom. Tom and Jerry -- see?

#### PIP JOHNSON'S COLUMN

Little news from K St. since our last issue.

We finally caught up with the David Lawtons, who own the charming pale blue house at 2614. Mr. Lawton has just been promoted in Civil Service and his new title is Assistant Director

of the Bureau of Departmental Operations.

Also, receiving congratulations are Helen Anthony and Gertrude Renstrum upon that glowing report on their convalescent home

(continued on page 5)

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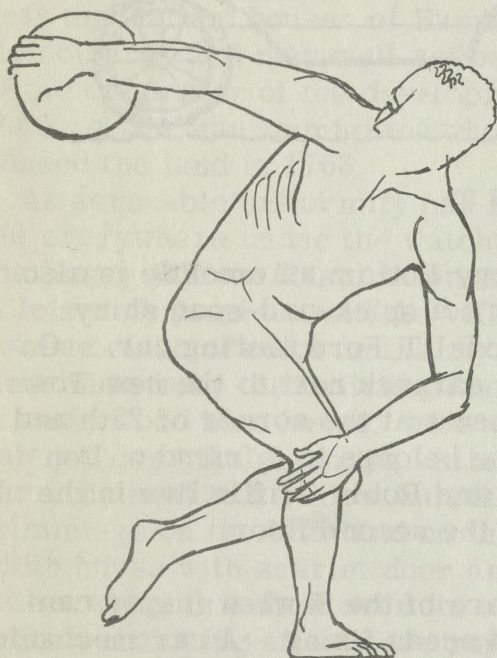
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UNDER THE DIRECTION OF LEONARD L. RAYL OF FOGGY BOTTOM

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## SIGNUM IUSTITIAE RESTITUTAE

In our Foggy Bottom ramblings we often tarry for a while in the little park at Virginia and 20th to contemplate the classic beauty of a Greek discus thrower in bronze that stands there.

After puzzling over the inscription rather futilely, with our little Latin and less Italian, we decided to track down the whole significance of the lovely young man. So we talked to Miss Carmel Sullivan of the State Department and Dr. Gabriele Paresce, cultural attache of the Italian Embassy, and this is what they told us:

The statue is a reproduction of the famous work of Greek antiquity, "Discobolus" -- discus thrower -- by Myron, the Greek sculptor. The original, created around 500 B. C., was lost, and it has come down to posterity as a reproduction in marble made by a Roman sculptor.

Our copy of Discobolus is a reproduction of the Roman marble, and like the Greek original, is cast in bronze. It is a gift "from the Italian people to the American people, February 28, 1956." This is inscribed in Italian on the east face of the base: GLI ITALIANI AL POPOLO

AMERICANO -- 28 FEBBRAIO 1956.

The Latin inscription, on the west face-- SIGNUM IUSTITIAE RESTITUTAE--XXII-II-MCMXLVIII--may be construed in prosaic English style, "In sign of just restitution." The sentiment refers to art treasures that were carted away by Hitler's troops and later found in a cave in Germany by GI's after World War II. "Just restitution" of the marble version of Discobolus and many others was made to Italy by the United States.

The casting of our copy of the Discus Thrower was done by the Bearzi Foundry in Florence. The bronze was entirely chiseled, in the same way that such art objects were finished during the Renaissance. This work required six months, and the founder as well as his two embossers refused to be paid, and accepted only the reimbursement of costs, because they knew that the statue was to be donated to the United States as a token of gratitude for the return of the masterpieces.

After the chiseling was completed, the bronze statue was given natural finish by burying it in soil for five months and keeping it for six months thereafter in the open air. In this way the statue acquired a permanent finish similar to that of antique bronzes.

The City of Rome contributed the pillar of African gray granite topped by a white marble capital upon which the statue is mounted. They were both found in archaeological excavations in Rome. The base of the statue is of Roman travertine.

During his state visit to the United States in February and March of 1956, President Gronchi presented the statue to President Eisenhower who had it placed in the park in front of the New Department of State.

## DON THORP

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Pip Johnson's Column (Continued)  
on Wyoming Avenue. The Washington Post recently published a series of articles about local homes for the aged and theirs got top billing. Stay in business a few more years, Gals--I'll feel so much better in friendly hands.

Latest worry on our corner, the publicized 27th St. approach--approach to what we do not know, but the street appears to be doomed. Perhaps Mr. Camalier can help here.

No other news until we reach Green's Court.

Olivia, the Basset Hound we mentioned in the last issue was run over in Rock Creek Park and is still at the vet's, but will recover.

In covering my new beat, the 2400 block of I-St., I learned that Jack Easley has purchased 2407½. Liz Harter will soon be off on a six-month junket to the West Coast. Lucky Liz. Eleanor Mitchell has bought 2419. Her job must be fascinating--she works under a special grant of USIA as Executive Director of the People-to-People Program, with offices in the Corcoran Art Gallery, where she arranges for exchange exhibits of the visual arts from all over the world. The Van Wagenen's beautiful auxiliary sloop is tied up at the Washington Marina. Named the "Gypsy," she is 28½ feet long and it took three week-ends to get her here from Annapolis, half way under power and half sailing. Fran Engle's mother, Mrs. Mary Blair, is visiting from Warwick, Rhode Island. John Colish is proud of the ribbons won recently by his Miniature Schnauzer at the dog show. He was handled by Rudy Agra of 26th St. John is doing his own remodeling. Congratulations on your facade, John, and thanks for finishing that first. It helps tone down the electric blue of Griswold and Applegate, who swear the paint can read "guaranteed to fade in six months." And next, that oh so dreamy cocoa house of the Arthur Wellborns. Isn't it divine? All those in favor say "Aye"--the rest of you can move to Silver Spring. That tough cowboy wearing the red boots, jeans, and two six-shooters is none other than Brian Savage of 2414-I. At six months of age we hear tell he's a mean hombre,

(continued on page 6)



#### CATS CAN READ!

When a discriminating song sparrow couple selected the patio of 2424 I-Street as a home site last summer, Inez Larson, who also resides at that address, had the privilege of watching not only the construction of the sparrow home but the choice of furnishings, including bedding, draperies, and all other essentials, as well as the moving in.

Soon after installation, eggs began to arrive for the newlywed couple and four babies were delivered, filling the nest with four wide-open, squeaking, naked heads.

Inez was aware of the hostility between cats and birds and immediately proceeded to warn her birds against attacking any felines in the neighborhood. Her success is indicated by the fact that not a single aggression by the birds took place.

To convey the message of peace and harmony to the cats was a bit more difficult, for many of them are foreigners, fluent in Siamese, and have great difficulty in reading the Foggy Bottom News. A way out was found. Her friend, Jean Pulver, a capable linguist, willingly and enthusiastically put his hand to preparing a notice in Siamese. This was posted near the sparrow home. In translation it read, No admittance to cats.

It was soon noticed that the Siamese cats, which had been accustomed to taking walks in the vicinity, understood the sign and stayed away.

The nestlings, unmolested, learned to use their wings, and flew away, after a word of warning from their parents about peaceful co-existence with their intelligent feline friends.

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THE REALTORS WHO DISCOVERED FOGGY BOTTOM

## CRUCIAL YEAR FOR FOGGY BOTTOM

The Foggy Bottom Restoration Association began its year with a roundtable discussion of miscellaneous subjects at a meeting in Briggs Montgomery School September 22, attended by about 70 members and visitors.

President Herbert Socks reminded the Association that the Camelier fund is \$330 short of the thousand dollars we owe our attorney and urged those who have not paid the \$5 assessment to do so. He declared that this year will be crucial for Foggy Bottom as the approaches of Route 240 and the Inner Loop have not yet been approved, but he indicated that the location of the Cultural Center practically eliminates the use of 25th Street as the corridor for the Inner Loop, as proposed by the Clarkson report.

Recently announced plans for the extension of the GW campus to 24th Street were discussed but no action by the Association was proposed.

Sis Campbell brought up the subject of the tick infestation that has plagued our dog population this season and Rhea Radin was appointed to see what could be done to abate the evil.

Weeds in vacant lots are a source of annoyance, and several members spoke on the subject. Lieutenant Charles R. Murphy of the Third Precinct, who was present at the meeting, said he would undertake the task of seeing that they are cut down.

The treasurer's report indicated we are solvent, with an adequate balance, and the membership committee reported progress toward a banner year.

The Association voted to set the time of meetings up from 8:30 to 8 and to serve coffee during a social hour after adjournment.

## THE FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

Charley Rogers, Editor ..... FE 3-3157  
Shirley Kennard, Art Editor ..... OL 2-7305  
George MacKinnon, Business Manager ..... FE 3-2134  
John B. Howerton, Asst. Bus. Mgr. .... FE 3-9344

## JOHNSON's COLUMN (Continued)

especially when he's been hitting the bottle (milk bottle, that is).

The fancy array of plush cars parked by the new houses at New Hampshire and I--a Cadillac and no less than two Mercedes Benz jobs--lured me around the corner. Met Commander and Mrs. James O. Justice, who own 2403 I-St., moving here from Boston. Their stunning gas coach lanterns were found in an antique shop in Lancaster, Pa., after they'd covered New England. The Arthur E. W. Millers of 900 New Hampshire, with their daughter, Phyllis De Lavoca, were the first to move into the new group. The Millers also add two lovely Miniature Poodles to the neighborhood--a gray named Mellisa Joy, and a black named Nicholas Nickelby. We didn't get to meet them as they were at a clip joint getting their fall pruning. Last, but certainly not least in this household is "Sugar" the cat who talks. YES TALKS. The cat comes from Missouri, has been written up in a New York paper, and says "now" when the refrigerator door is opened and "thank you" after scratching to get in the house.

Speaking of cats, there is a big gray and white stray who roams I-St. and goes by the names "The Bandit" or "The Racketeer." The Caemmerers of 2404 thought they were his whole support until they got together with Morella Hansen. The truth is not in that cat, but he's a doll and we are worrying about what will happen to him, come winter. Anyone know of a vacant cat house?

Harold and Norma Mortimer are working like mad finishing the floors of their newly acquired property at 814 New Hampshire. Maybe one day they will join our gang in the Bottom but meantime the house has been leased by three young men who are members of the Army Chorus.

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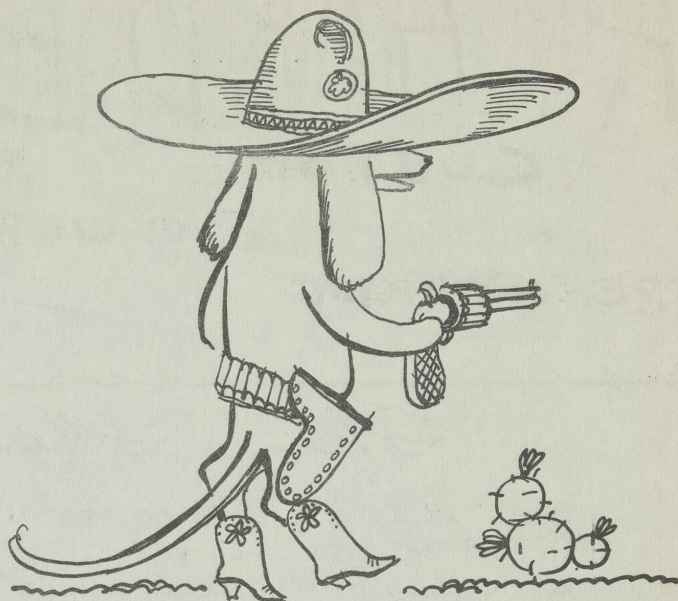
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## DACHSHUND COWBOY

Frances Davila, 2418 I, received a Dachs-hund puppy for her birthday in July and named him of all things, --"Gauchó," for a South American cowboy. Mrs. Davila and daughter Dolly spent the summer studying. Dolly is finishing Maryland U in three years, graduat-ing next June, and her Mother is attending two universities in order to get a degree in a third. The degree--Ph. D. in Art--is to be conferred by NYU partly on transferred credits earned locally at GW and American U. Mrs. Davila teaches art at the Northwood Senior High School of Silver Spring, and her dissertation will concern itself with art education. She is the widow of the late Dr. Carlos Davila, Chilean statesman, journalist, and diplomat.



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If you live in Foggy Bottom or own or rent property or conduct a business there, you are eligible for membership in the Foggy Bottom Restoration Association. Members of the Association can keep abreast of the news of the neighborhood and the activities of the organization through the FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS, which is published by and for them and is delivered free to their homes or business houses monthly September through June. Membership dues are as follows: Property owners, \$5.00 per year per household (all members of a Household Member are listed); business firms, \$5.00 per year; nonproperty owners \$2.50 a year (all members of a Household Member are listed). Fill out the form below and mail it with check to Morella R. Hansen, 2415 Eye Street, N. W., Washington 5, D. C., or hand to her at the next meeting of the Association (see page 8 for announcement).

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print)

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby apply for membership in the Foggy Bottom Restoration Association. I am a resident of Foggy Bottom. I am not a resi-  
dent, but I own property in Foggy Bottom. (Please cross out  
the inappropriate words.)

Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP CARD

#### FOGGY BOTTOM RESTORATION ASSOCIATION

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

has paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_ dues for the year 195\_\_ - 195\_\_, and is a  
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(Signed) for FBRA \_\_\_\_\_

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## The Sheriff Says -

That it is not safe to stand under the tree at the northeast corner of of 26th and Va. Ave, if you are not wearing a raincoat, that is....that the the finest pile of firewood in the Bottom is inside the fence at the Gas Co. pumping house....that the coach lamps at 2403 Eye light up a dark corner.... that it is worthwhile to walk down into the park beyond the end of Eye St. to see the colors of the trees....that if the sportscars increase and multiply in the neighborhood, we will gain some parking places....that some femme hearts are beating fast for a minion of the law in the Bottom....that the former beauty shop at 26th and Eye is being beautified....that Larry Brandts new houses have many colors in the doors, the better to guide you home, my friends....that one way to stop all of the bootleg parking on vacant lots is to put up signs with prices....that a certain house with fountain in patio which is on the market could be sold more quickly if the fountain spouted giggle water....that with the Coop closed, there is a wonderful chance for someone to open up a good Hot dog stand or something there....that the trash pickup schedule in the Bottom has been changed a lot lately....that the "N" in the McLachlen Bank sign was burned out the other nite--creating a traffic problem in the area....

☆ = 3

## OUR NEXT MEETING

ST. PAULS PARISH HALL -

2430 K ST. - 8:00 P.M. ← NOTE!

COFFEE - SPEAKER - MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS

Added item from Eye St.....

We had a birthday at 2526 Eye St. this week---Mrs. Susie Roberts was eighty-eight years young on Monday. Mrs. Roberts was born in Georgetown but moved into her present home nearly fifty years ago when the houses were new. She recalls that the houses were built up high to get away from the swamp in the area. On Sunday she was feted at a party by her nieces and nephews--and a godd time was had by all.